

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is set forth in the following claims.

Claims

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While the present invention has been described above in terms of specific embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. On the contrary, the present invention is intended for various modifications and equivalent structures included within the spirit and

10 scope of the appended claims.

I, the inventor claims:

1 A method operative at a server for enabling a first entity to negotiate with a second entity over a computer network to secure a loan syndication commitment and to administer the loan commitment, comprising the steps of:

20 having the first entity post a bid to an online auction block maintained at the server for a predetermined period of time;

in response to a request from second entity to the server identifying a given loan syndication requirements, identifying a set of bids within that requirements;

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in response to the second entity accepting a given one of the set of bids posted
by the first entity, sending a message to the first entity and second entity
confirming a loan syndication commitment and sending an acceptance message
to the second entity where the first entity has accept the seconds entity's
5 commitment;

having a database of the committed loan syndication maintained at the server;

in response to periodically loan commitments as determined by the loan
10 syndicator, sent email notification to lenders regarding their commitments and
to receive interest and principal payments from final borrower on behalf of the
loan syndicator and;

in response to interest and principal payments received from final borrower on a
15 periodical basis, provide instructions to transfer the amounts to lenders in
accordance to their commitments on behalf of loan syndicator.

2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the identity of the first entity and
20 second entities are anonymous.

3. The method as described in claim 2 further including the step of notifying the successful entities of the identity of the first entity after sending the acceptance message

5 4. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the first entity is a lender that desires to be included in a syndicated loan facility, and the second entity is a loan syndicator or originator.

10 5. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the first entity is a loan syndicator or originator wanting to syndicate a loan facility, and the second entity is a lender.

15 6. The method as described in claim 1 wherein each of the first and second entities remain anonymous to each other until after the acceptance message is sent.

7. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the second entity is charged a fee for the accepted bid.

20 8. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the bid identifies a desired risk class of the final borrower including borrowing terms and legal conditions.

9. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the bid identifies a desired period of loan.

10. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the bid identifies a desired loan
5 rate.

11. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the bid identifies the desired conditions attached to the bid.

10 12. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the bid identifies the desired size of the bid and the divisible amount the second entity is willing to participate including the role it is being sought.

13. A server connectable to a computer network preferably over the internet,
15 comprising:

a database of loan syndication information;

a display routine for displaying a table of loan rates indexed by size of loan,
20 period of loan, instrument of loan, syndicate or lender, country risk, role of participants, closing date, agreements, status of syndicator, final borrower's industry, collateral and comments by other bidders,

an auction routine for enabling users of client machines to negotiate to buy and sell loan syndication commitments anonymously and in full confidentiality,

an auction routine enabling users of client machines to place an automatic bid incrementally up to their upper limit when their original bid was challenged by another new bid and the original bid is then deleted to prevent double counting,

an auction routine enabling users of client machines to place conditional bids which are recorded but not submitted until the condition has been fulfilled,

an auction routine where conditional bids and automatic bids are only known to the bidder and host authority,

an information feedback system where users of client machine will be able to view feedback from the originator and others feedback as well as to provide feedback/comments on their own,

an rating system to determine the success rate of each originator so as to provide a comparison to their ability to close a deal,

a search facility to enable users to make more accurate searches into their particular needs,

a programmable administrative routine to enable the loan syndicator to manage the lenders commitments where such routine include sending instructional emails to lenders of their commitments such as draw down, to receive funds from lenders to be deposited into final borrowers' accounts and to receive
5 interest and principal payments from final borrowers in accordance to terms of facility where such payments will be credited to the respective lenders' accounts in relation to their portion of commitments,

a programmable administrative routine to monitor correspondence, update
10 electronic documents, issue settlement instructions, accounts, perform billings, provide different degree of access to loan syndicated participants in order for them to perform their duties, calculate and determine the interest costs principal repayment for each syndication on behalf of the syndicator.

15 14. The server as described in claim 13 wherein the auction routine includes means for enabling a client to post a bid for a given loan syndication facility where such bid may be a parcel or a divisible unit of the total loan requested where such parcel is linked to a particular rate.

20 15. The server as described in claim 14 wherein the auction routine further includes means for enabling a loan syndicator or originator to accept the bid including a divisible unit linking to a particular rate of the loan for the stated loan syndication facility.

16. The server as described in claim 13 wherein the auction routine includes means for enabling a loan syndicator to post and update a bid for a given loan syndication facility.

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17. The server as described in claim 16 wherein the auction routine further includes means for enabling a lender to accept the bid which may be a divisible unit of the loan for the given total loan syndication facility.

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18. The server as described in claim 13 wherein the auction routine further includes means for notifying users that a given loan syndication commitment has been made and to release the various identities once their commitment has been accepted.

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19. The server as described in claim 13 wherein the administrative routine includes means for selecting the various bids into a risk return matrix satisfying at least the total amount of the loan syndicate in the order of the best bids first and sending this matrix for acceptance by syndicator.

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20. A computer network system for negotiating and managing loan syndication, said computer network system comprising:

(a) at least one client computer;

- (b) at least one computer network connected to said computer;
- (c) at least one host computer connected to said network,
- 5 (d) means for posting a bid by a first entity to an online auction block maintained at the server for a predetermined period of time,
- (e) means for responding to a request from a second entity to the server
- 10 identifying a given loan syndication requirements, identifying a set of bids within that requirements over said at least one computer network or another computer network;
- (f) means for the second entity accepting a given one of the set bids posted by
- 15 the first entity, sending a message to the first entity and the second entity confirming a loan syndication commitment and returning a message to the second entity where the first entity accepting the second entity's commitment over said at least one computer network or another computer network;
- 20 (g) means for sending email instruction to lenders regarding their commitments, update documentation, loan status report, provide detail plans of performance duties for all participants and to monitor interest and principal payments from

(h) means for entering records of loan syndication into a database electronically

(i) means to calculate and determine the interest costs principal repayment for each facility and to send instructions to participants when they fall due on behalf of the loan syndicator over said at least one computer network or another computer network;

(k) means to enable users of client machines to place an automatic bid incrementally up to their upper limit when their original bid was challenged by another new bid and the original bid is then deleted to prevent double counting,

(l) means to enable users of client machines to place conditional bids which are recorded but not submitted until these conditions have been met,

(m) means to protect information on conditional bids and automatic bids which are only known to the bidder and host authority,

(n) means for users of client machine to be able to view feedback from the originator and others feedback as well as to provide feedback/comments on their own,

(o) means to rate the success of each originator so as to provide a comparison to their ability to close a deal,

(p) means to search the database so users to make more accurate searches into their particular needs,